

In the Specification:

Applicant has corrected the drawings to include Figure 3a. The specification is consistent with the amended drawings.

The title of the invention is amended to:

**Recording Head Assembly with Reduced Mass, Reduced Tape-to-Head Surface Separation, and Reduced Tape Contact Area.**

In the Claims:

For the convenience of the Examiner, all claims, including those not changed by the present amendment, have been included.

1. (Currently Amended) In a tape recording device, comprising:
  - a supply reel and a take-up reel, a head for recording data to the tape or reading data from the tape or both, a servo system capable of moving the tape between the supply reel and the take-up reel past said head;
  - a recording system, comprising:
    - an actuator capable of moving said head across the recording surface of said tape;
    - a flexure having a first end attached to the head and a second end attached to the actuator;
    - whereas the flexure allows the head to move towards the tape;
    - and
    - whereas the flexure is biased against the tape and therefore urges the head towards the tape; and
    - whereas the flexure allows the head to move so that the head surface is substantially aligned with the tape surface.
2. (Currently Amended) A ~~recording system~~ tape recording device of claim 1 ~~further~~ additionally comprising a spring;

whereas the spring ~~provides~~ enhances a the bias and ~~thus pushes the head towards the tape of the flexure.~~

3. (Original) A recording system of claim 1 further comprising a means to stabilize the tape at the recording area.
4. (Currently Amended) A recording system of claim 3, whereas the means to stabilize the tape stabilizer is a hydrodynamic bearing.
5. (Currently Amended) A recording system of claim 3, whereas the means to stabilize the tape stabilizer is a dual bump hydrodynamic bearing and the stabilized area is between the two bumps.
6. (Currently Amended) A recording system of claim 3, whereas the means to stabilize the tape stabilizer is a hydrostatic bearing.
7. (Currently Amended) A recording system of claim 3, whereas the means to stabilize the tape stabilizer is a roller bearing.
8. (Removed) ~~A recording system of claim 3 further comprising:  
a second flexure having a first end attached to the actuator and  
a second end attached to a guiding block.~~
9. (Removed) ~~A means to stabilize the tape according to claim 8 whereas the guiding block is a second recording head.~~
10. (Removed) ~~A recording system according to claim 3 further comprising  
a means to separate the recording head from the stabilizer to allow the head to move in and out of the tape thread path.~~
11. (Removed) ~~A mechanism to separate the head from the stabilizer according to claim 10 comprising:  
a solenoid having a plurality of positions,  
a plurality of rods movably attached to the solenoid;  
whereas the rods separate the head from the tape when the solenoid is in a first position; and  
whereas the rods allow the head to contact the tape when the solenoid is in a second position.~~
12. (Currently Amended) In a tape recording device, comprising:  
a supply reel and a take-up reel, a head assembly for recording data to the tape or reading data from the tape or both, a servo system